

# CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

PUBLISHED BY PHILEMON CANFIELD, CENTRAL ROW, HARTFORD, FOR THE CONNECTICUT BAPTIST CONVENTION.

"WHAT THOU SEEST, WRITE—AND SEND UNTO THE—CHURCHES."

VOL. I.

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## CONDITIONS.

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All letters on the subject of this paper, or Communications for it, should be addressed to the Editor of the Christian Secretary—*post paid.*

An index to the paper will be given at the close of the year.

\* Advertisements inserted at the usual prices.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Apomattox Baptists Association, to the several Churches which they represent, Greeting:

(Concluded from page 198.)

1. It is intended for the benefit or recovery of the transgressor. The Apostle expressly states, that the incestuous person must be expelled from the Corinthian church, "that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

And in this he differs very widely from those wise men of the present day, who seem to think that the expulsion of an offender from the church, is tantamount to taking his life. Paul, however, commands the church to excommunicate the transgressor, as the only suitable means of showing him his awful guilt. Because, if anything is calculated to bring an offending Christian to reflect seriously upon the heinous nature of his transgression, it must be a declaration by the church, that they consider him as unworthy of a seat amongst them. In this, if he be a Christian, will he discover the extent and feel the burden of his guilt. Here he will see, as in a glass, the stigma which his conduct has brought upon his character—the high privileges he has forfeited—and the awful doom which must await him, should he persist in his sinful course. Thus Paul, like a skillful surgeon, knowing that the disease of the offender at Corinth was almost incurable, by one bold, vigorous stroke, reached the core of moral corruption, arrested the infection, and saved the patient. For we learn from his second Epistle, written to the same church, about twelve months afterwards, that the offender, low as he had sunk in turpitude and spiritual apathy, was, by means of his expulsion, roused from his slumber and quickened to a sense of his guilt and misery. And after the church had thus evinced, by his excommunication, that they would "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," and when after a uniform and long continued reformation, the offender had given evidence that his was that "godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation that needeth not to be repented of, by doing works meet for repentance," Paul directs them to restore him to fellowship.

Let it be carefully remembered, however, that the church at Corinth was reared up in the midst of abominable idolatries, where iniquity prevailed in ten thousand forms, and to the very highest degree; so that even where grace reigned in the conversion of the inhabitants, an instantaneous and entire change from all remains of these enormities could not be expected. It must therefore be admitted, that, under these circumstances, a laxity of church discipline was tolerated, and, in some sense, expedient, which would be altogether inexpedient, and unjustifiable amongst us.—For it can hardly be supposed that any real Gospel church, "built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone," would at the present day, receive again into fellowship, at the expiration of one year, if ever, an offender of like description with him at Corinth.

Nevertheless, the example serves admirably to demonstrate the propriety, efficacy, and absolute necessity, of prompt, decisive, close, Apostolic discipline in the church. It very clearly evinces, that not only the offender but the whole church participated in its salutary influence. For when they received the Apostle's reproof for suffering the offender to remain among them, their eyes were opened to the guilt of their own

conduct, and their hearts were filled with sorrow, indignation, and revenge, not against the offender, but against themselves. "For behold (says Paul,) this self-same thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea what clearing of yourselves, yea what indignation, yea what fear, yea what vehement desire, yea what zeal, yea what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

"He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: 'Purge out, therefore, the old leaven.'"

2. Another end of church discipline is the purity, and consequently the real interest, prosperity and comfort of the church. While Achan's crime remained concealed, and himself continued in the camp of Israel, the Israelites fled before their enemies—the frowns of Jehovah filled them with dismay, and numbers perished under his sore displeasure. But as soon as he was detected, and punished according to his crime, the wrath of God ceased to smite against his people, and victory crowned their arms. And thus it is, in no small degree, in the church of Christ. While disorderly, ungodly professors are suffered to remain quietly in the church, saying, "I shall have peace though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst," the minister's hands hang down and his knees are feeble—the "Word of God" no longer proves "quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword," but falls "like a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal," and becomes a "savour of death unto death" to sinners.

By habitual converse with those of lax principles and profligate morals (for the two are closely allied) even Christians themselves, before they suspect their danger, may begin to conform to their maxims and manners. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you." Disorderly, ungodly professors, are among real Christians in the church like the firebrands between the tails of Sampson's foxes. Their conduct continually tends to alienate and separate those who would otherwise live in mutual love, peace, and Christian fellowship. For the best of Christians may, by reason of the imperfection belonging to all, be seduced by the worst of hypocrites in the church, to connive at their transgressions and screen them from punishment. And in this way they prove as "the fire brands"—the dear disciples are wounded—envy, strife, and every evil work, prevail amongst them. The hours which would otherwise be devoted to prayer, praise, preaching and hearing God's word, are employed in the examination of witnesses and heart-burning altercations. Consequently, the purity, the interest, prosperity and comfort of the church, require the immediate expulsion of all who do not give evidence that they are born of God. Remove the fire-brands and the contention will cease. "Purge out therefore the old leaven."

Again—whatever prevents the admission of unworthy members, promotes the purity the interest, prosperity, and comfort of the church. And, as wholesome, equitable laws are always odious to the unprincipled part of the community, so nothing is so formidable to false professors as close Apostolic discipline—nothing so odious as heart-searching, practical preaching. Real believers love the truth, and esteem the yoke of Christ easy, and his burden light; but false professors, scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites most esteem that preaching and that discipline which allows them the greatest latitude in their conduct: and this is what they call Gospel liberty. Consequently, such characters are not apt to seek for admission into a church, where the true Gospel is preached, and true discipline maintained.

On the contrary, where these are disregarded, or attended to in a very imperfect partial manner, there the church will swarm with those who will not "endure sound doctrine," but swallow greedily "damnable heresies." There will be those "who walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government"—there will be found those who betray the Saviour with a kiss, and "who crucify him afresh, and put him to open shame"—there will be seen "The dog returning to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." "Purge out therefore the old leaven."

3. Another very important end in church discipline is to keep the character of the church unblemished in the estimation of unbelievers. If disorderly

professors are suffered to remain in the church, it excites, in the minds of unbelievers, a strong prejudice against religion. For though "the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God," yet almost every one can discover whether or not a man's conduct corresponds with his profession. When therefore, unbelievers see professors retained in Christian fellowship, whose lives vary so much from the Scripture character of saints; the natural principles of their unbelief are greatly strengthened, and they are ready to conclude that there is no reality in religion; or that almost all who profess it are designing hypocrites. It was this mournful consideration that drew from our Saviour the exclamation, "Wo unto the world because of offences! it must needs be that offences come: but wo to that man by whom the offence cometh." It is evident, that in these words he had reference to those false professors whose ungodly lives prejudice others against His truth, and cause them to blaspheme His holy name. And it may be asserted, without the fear of contradiction, that if Voltaire, Hume, Gibbon, and Paine, have, by their infidel writings, murdered thousands of souls; the Achan, Ahitophels, and Judases, in the visible church, have slain their millions.

On the other hand nothing perhaps presents to the mind of the unbeliever so strong an argument for the reality of religion, as the sight of a well-organized, well-disciplined Gospel church—constantly and zealously attending upon the ordinances—moving forward, consistently, harmoniously, and affectionately, in the faithful discharge of their various secular and religious duties. When all the members are seen thus maintaining a character, public and private, comporting with their high vocation—"denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and living soberly righteously and godly in this present world;" pursuing and practising "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report;" then is the church "fair as the Moon, beautiful as Tirzah, and terrible as an army with banners." Such an exhibition of real and consistent virtue, reflecting in some degree the image of its Divine Original, cannot fail to impress the mind of the unbeliever, with awe—constrain him to bow, at least, in his heart, with reverence to the supremacy of its influence—and to exclaim, in the language of Paul's worshippers, when Elijah's God displayed his presence and his power, "THE LORD HE IS THE GOD, THE LORD, HE IS THE GOD."

From the American Baptist Magazine.

Extract of a letter from Mrs. Wade to a lady in Boston, dated

Rangoon, Jan. 26, 1824.

Very dear Mrs. S.

You have no doubt heard of our safe arrival in Calcutta. We embraced the first opportunity of a passage to Rangoon, and arrived at our destined home within seven weeks from our arrival in Bengal, all in good health. I think no Missionaries have ever had so speedy and pleasant a passage to Rangoon before. Your prayer meetings on the 23d have often been a cordial to our drooping spirits; and we often think peculiar blessings descend on us through the prayers of our dear American friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Judson left us for Ava in just a week from our arrival, and you will readily imagine that it was very painful parting with those with whom we hoped to spend our days. During our voyages at sea, I have been very happy indeed with Mrs. Judson. She has been a sister to me; and though our acquaintance with Mr. Judson has been short, we feel equally attached to him. But we all highly approve their removal to Ava, and hope much from their influence at court. We are very happy with Mr. & Mrs. Hough, we live in separate families, and have just made arrangements so as to study to advantage. We have one of the Christians for a teacher, and hope we begin to get on pretty well in the language. Besides my domestic cares, (which are much increased in a country like this) I am reading the New Testament, translating Mrs. Judson's Catechism, and make it an object to get something new to speak every day. We found the little church much scattered, by means of the oppressive taxes of late, which many being unable to pay, flee into the woods. Mr. Judson and Dr. Price have several of the converts at Ava, and we have three with us, besides a few others who live near enough to come here to worship.

As to political intelligence, we are constantly hearing of preparations for war with the Bengal government, and the re-

ports have just been confirmed by a letter from Mr. Judson, which says he is just passing a body of troops which are expected here in a few days, and will probably be stationed not far distant. We suspected all this when in Bengal, and were most affectionately invited to stay with our Serampore friends until the commotion ceased. It was thought by many in Bengal, to be very improper for us to come here in the present state of things; but we felt unwilling to spend our time where we could not study Burman to advantage, and Mrs. Judson being resolved on coming, we felt no hesitation. Should there be war, the king well understands the difference between the English and Americans, so that we hope our brethren at Ava will be safe. But we have very little hope of being able to convince the Burmans here, that we are at all different from the English. In war, should we escape the fate of Englishmen, we should be a constant prey to robbers and murderers. But, my dear friend, I know who is our keeper, and if we are indeed the children of God, we have nothing to fear. I am sure I am willing to suffer any thing from changes, if these may open a more effectual door for the introduction of the gospel into this pagan empire.

I think, through the grace of God, I can say, "none of these things move me." A firm confidence that this is the path of duty marked by him, in whose hand are the hearts of kings, suppresses every rising fear, and we sit down in our study, day after day, with a sweet confidence in the wise directions of our heavenly Father, and forget every thing but the acquisition of this difficult language. We have more temporal comforts than we expected, and begin to think of our dear brother Boardman's leaving America with much anxiety. We hope that our excellent patrons will not send him alone. I am sure they would not, if they could look across the great waters, and behold this wretched, wretched land.

Our retired situation is peculiarly favourable to the acquisition of language, and religious enjoyment. We feel perfectly contented with no society but Mr. and Mrs. Hough, and happy in retiring from the gay temptations of the world. I can truly say, the height of my ambition is to be able to speak Burman with ease, and spend all my days in teaching these degraded females. I enjoy visits from the Burman sisters, and have a little prayer-meeting when they come. The apparent humility and zeal of these ignorant females, is to me the most sensible reproof for want of pure devotion, that I ever received. O pray much for us, for I am more and more convinced, that without much grace we shall never be useful here.

At evening we often walk to the lonely grave of dear Mrs. Price. How sensibly her loss is felt in this mission! She was much beloved in Calcutta, and by all the missionaries here. We became acquainted with Mrs. Colman in Calcutta, and really love her as a sister. She is very usefully and pleasantly employed. My dear Mrs. S. my hour for writing is past, and I must indulge no longer. Mr. W. joins in affectionate regards to all the dear Boston friends.

From yours,  
DEBORAH B. L. WADE.

From the American Baptist Magazine.  
By the politeness of Mrs. Judson's friends, the Editors are favoured with the following Letter for the Magazine.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MRS. JUDSON, TO HER PARENTS, DATED

Ava, Feb. 1824.

My dear Parents and Sisters,

After two years and a half wandering, you will be pleased to hear that I have at last arrived at home, so far as this life is concerned, and am once more quietly and happily settled with Mr. Judson. When I retrace the scenes through which I have passed, the immense space I have traversed, and the various dangers, seen and unseen, from which I have been preserved, my heart is filled with gratitude and praise to that Being, who has at all times been my Protector, and marked out all the way before me. Surely no creature was ever more highly favoured, no beings were ever under greater obligations to lay out themselves entirely for the promotion of God's glory, than I at this moment am. And I think I do feel more than ever, the importance of being spiritual and humble, and so to cherish the influences of the Holy Spirit, that in the communication of divine truth, powerful impressions may be made, and that I may no more wander from Him, who is deserving all my services and affections.

I wrote from Rangoon, but for fear my letters should not have arrived, I will mention a few things therein contained.—We had a quick and pleasant passage from Calcutta to Rangoon. Mr. S.'s boat was all in readiness, my baggage was immediately taken from the ship to the boat, and in seven days from my arrival, we were on our way to the capital. Our boat was small, though convenient, but the current at this season is so very strong, and the wind always against us, that our progress was slow indeed. The season however was cool and delightful; we were preserved from dangers by day, and robbers by night, and arrived in safety in six weeks. The A-rah-wah-tee (Irrawaddy) is a noble river; its banks every where covered with immortal beings, destined to the same eternity as ourselves. We often walked through the villages, and though we never received the least insult, always attracted universal attention. A foreign female was a sight never before beheld, and all were anxious that their friends and relatives should have a view. Crowds followed us through the villages, and some who were less civilized than others, would run some way before us, in order to have a long look as we approached them. In one instance, the boat being some time doubling a point we had walked over, we seated ourselves down, when the village as usual assembled, and Mr. Judson introduced the subject of religion. Several old men who were present, entered into conversation, while the multitude was all attention. The apparent school-master of the village coming up, Mr. Judson banded him a tract, and requested him to read. After proceeding some way, he remarked to the assembly, that such a writing was worthy of being copied, and asked Mr. Judson to remain while he copied it. Mr. Judson informed him he might keep the tract, on condition he read it to all his neighbours. We could not but hope the Spirit of God would bless those few simple truths, to the salvation of some of their souls.

Our boat was near being upset in passing through one of the rapids, with which this river abounds. The rudder became entangled in the rocks, which brought the boat across the stream, and laid her on one side. The steersman, however, had presence of mind sufficient to cut the rudder from the boat, which caused her to right, without experiencing any other inconvenience than a thorough fright, and the loss of our breakfast, which was precipitated from the fireplace into the water, together with every thing on the outside of the boat.

On our arrival at Ava, we had more difficulties to encounter, and such as we had never before experienced. We had no home, no house to shelter us from the burning sun by day, and the cold dews at night. Dr. Price had kindly met us on the way, and urged our taking up our residence with him; but his house being in such an unfinished state, and the walls so damp, (of brick, and just built) that after spending two or three hours, threw me into a fever, and induced me to feel that it would be presumption to remain longer. We had but one alternative, to remain in the boat till we could build a small house on the spot of ground which the king gave Mr. Judson last year. And you will hardly believe it possible, for I almost doubt my senses, that in just a fortnight from our arrival, we moved into a house built in that time, and which is sufficiently large to make us comfortable. It is in a most delightful situation, out of the dust of the town, and on the bank of the river. The spot of ground given by his majesty is small, being only 120 feet long, and 75 wide, but it is our own, and is the most healthy situation I have seen. Our house is raised four feet from the ground, consists of three small rooms and a verandah.

I hardly know how we shall bear the hot season, which is just commencing, as our house is of boards, and before night is heated like an oven. Nothing but brick is a shelter from the heat of Ava, where the thermometer even in the shade, frequently rises to a hundred and eight degrees.—We have worship every evening in Burman, when a number of the natives assemble; and every sabbath Mr. Judson preaches the other side of the river, in Dr. Price's house. We feel it an inestimable privilege, that amid all our discouragements we have the language, and are able constantly to communicate truths which can save the soul.

My female school has already commenced, with three little girls, who are learning to read, sew, &c. Two of them are sisters, and we have named them, Mary and Abby Hensaltine. One of them is to



be supported with the money which the "Judson Association of Bradford Academy" have engaged to collect. They are fine children, and improve as rapidly as any children in the world. Their mother is deranged, and their father gave them to me to educate, so that I have been at no expense for them, excepting their food and clothes. I have already begun to make inquiries for children, and doubt not we shall be directed in regard to our school.

I have not yet been to the palace; the royal family all being absent. They returned to Umerapora a day or two after our arrival, where they will remain till the new palace in this city is finished, when they will take possession in usual form, and Ava in future will be their residence. My old friend, the lady of the Viceroy of Rangoon who died in my absence, came to the boat to see me immediately on being informed of my arrival. All her power and distinction ceased at the death of her husband, and she is now only a private woman. She is, however, a very sensible woman, and there is much more hope of her attending to the subject of religion now, than when in public life. I intend to visit her frequently, and make it an object to fix her attention to the subject. In consequence of war with the Bengal government, foreigners are not so much esteemed at court as formerly. I know not what effect this war will have on our Mission, but we must leave the event with Him who has hitherto directed us.

Yours affectionately,

ANN H. JUDSON.

From Zion's Herald.

"This year thou shalt die."—JER. xxviii. 16.

The knell of the departed year is still ringing in our ears. We have accompanied it through all the stages of its short existence, until it was called to "join the years beyond the flood." We witnessed its swift decline, and heard its dying admonitions. It is gone, for ever gone, and left thousands to mourn their irreparable loss. Let us consider how proper it is, that we should spend a few moments in reflecting on its events—on the improvements we have made of its passing moments; and the guilt and condemnation we have incurred, in consequence of the commission of sin, or the omission of duty. Let us "talk with our past hours, and ask them what report they bore to heaven, and how they might have borne more welcome news." The events of the past year, great and small, were more or less interesting to us, as they were intimately or remotely connected with that preparation of heart which fits us for the enjoyment of God in Heaven. To secure this, ought ever to be the great object of life. The revolution of empires—the rise and fall of nations—the horrors of war, with all its concomitant miseries—the interests of agriculture and manufactures—the prosperity of commerce—the increasing wealth, and rapid population of our country, are subjects of small importance, when compared with the interests of our souls. It can make but little difference with us, what has transpired during the past year, if we have unwisely neglected to improve its short-lived moments, to "provide for ourselves garments that wax not old," and lay up treasures that will endure, when days and years revolve no more.

Let us ask ourselves then, how we have spent the short revolving year that is so suddenly gone, and left us in amazement at the rapidity of its flight! As sinners, have we penitently sorrowed for our numerous and aggravated offences against God? Have we sought, and found pardon and acceptance, through the atoning merits of our gracious Redeemer? Have we endeavoured to fashion our lives according to the dictates of reason, and the precepts of the gospel? As Christians, have we diligently attended to the duties of our high profession, and aimed at progress in the life of holiness? Have we commiserated the woes, and relieved the wants of our fellow creatures, who are doomed to poverty and wretchedness? Have we prayed for the success of the gospel, and assisted in sending it to the destitute, and unenlightened part of mankind? If we are compelled to answer these important questions in the negative, we have abundant cause of shame and repentance before God. But no contrition, however deep, can atone for past neglect; and the only alternative now left us is to form resolutions of amendment.

Another year has begun its "little rounds," and brought with it irresistible evidence of the kindness, and long suffering of our great Creator. Let us learn to estimate its worth, and calculate, as far as we can, its probable events. The prediction which stands at the head of these remarks, announces an event which will take place with regard to many; and it may take place with regard to all. The pages of history, corroborated by our own observation, remind us of the uncertainty of life. Death is the only conqueror, who has succeeded in establishing universal empire. To his sceptre all classes of men, from the highest to the lowest, must inevitably bow. Consult the records of ancient times: ask them, where are all those distinguished characters, famed in

history, for the glory of their conquest, the extent of their dominions, or the greatness of their wisdom? Long since, they have fallen victims to the insatiable rapacity of death; and the labored monuments, erected to perpetuate their fame, and tell the story of their achievements, are "like the dust which they were vainly intended to commemorate." How transient is worldly glory—how fleeting every object of sense!

And has not the last year added thousands to the long list of the dead? Yea thousands, every hour, have sped their way to the visions of eternity. Many in the bloom and vigor of youth, have quitted the stage of life, and left us petrified with astonishment at the suddenness of their departure.

We may reasonably expect similar events this year; and though we have been spared, while "pestilence has walked in darkness, and destruction has wasted at noonday," yet "our days are as an hand breadth," and this year may see all our fond hopes prostrated in the dust.

"Awake ye curious inquirers! fond Of knowing all, but what avails you, known; If you would learn death's character, attend. All casts of conduct, all degrees of health, All dies of fortune, and all dates of age, Together shook in his impartial urn, Come forth at random: Or if choice is made, The choice is quite sarcastic, and insults All bold conjecture, and fond hopes of man. \*\*\* the farthest from the fear Are often nearest to the stroke of fate."

Our all-wise Creator has seen fit to conceal from us the "day and the hour" of our final exit, that we might be ever on our watch, expecting the summons which calls us hence. But shall we, because we know not the precise time of our departure, indulge ourselves in thoughtless indifference, or criminal self-indulgence? Death often arrests the votaries of pleasure, in the midst of their fantastic dreams, and calls them from the banquet, to the judgment seat of Christ.

Death treads in pleasure's footsteps, round the world.

When pleasure treads the paths which reason shuns, When against reason, riot shuts the door, And gaiety supplies the place of sense, Then, foremost at the banquet, and the ball, Death leads the dance, or stamps the deadly die;

Nor ever fails the midnight bowl to crown.

Reader! pause, and ponder these truths well, at the commencement of the year; resolved that another twelve months shall not be as idle, and unprofitably spent, as the last. Consider you have much to do: You have many sins to wash away—many errors to deplore—a peace to make with God, if you have hitherto neglected it—and treasure to secure in the abodes of eternal glory. And are you content to "neglect the great salvation" still and venture your all upon the precarious hope of surviving another year? Oh! hasten thy flight to the blood of sprinkling, "lest slumber steal one moment o'er thy soul, and fate surprise thee nodding." Should you fail to do this, and before the close of this short revolving year, be called to "quit this house of clay," where can you expect to "find your destined place?"

May the blessings of heaven rest upon you, and may you have, indeed, a happy new year.

D. Y.

#### CHRISTIAN SECRETARY.

HARTFORD, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1825.

The present number closes the first volume of this paper. It has been the object of our labours the last year, to furnish our readers with the earliest and most interesting intelligence, both religious and political, with such other matter of a doctrinal and practical kind, as in our judgment was likely to be most useful; and we embrace the present opportunity to tender our thanks to those who have afforded us their patronage, and solicit a continuance of their favours.

We shall endeavour to render the Secretary increasingly interesting and useful.

At the present time, when so much is attempted by the Church of God for the melioration of the condition of mankind, and while the Lord is giving success to the efforts of his people, it becomes very desirable that all those who feel in their hearts to pray "Thy kingdom come" should be able to peruse as it transpires, the history of the progress of that kingdom in the earth.

A knowledge of what God is doing for the enlargement and establishment of his Church, is calculated to strengthen the faith and fire the zeal of the friends of truth, as well as to convince gainsayers of the reality of the religion of Christ.

Far as the Baptists as a denomination are from that elevated standard of intelligence and information, which is desirable, yet they have in every age as a body, protested against the popish maxim, that "ignorance is the mother of devotion."

Independent and strictly republican in their Church government, and acknowledging no man to be master in matters of faith and Christian practice, but claiming to take the Bible for their only rule in these matters, they ought in order to act consistent with their principles, to avail themselves of every advantage which the providence of God may throw in their way for the attainment of Christian

knowledge, and we are happy to observe a growing desire to act in accordance with their high vocation in this respect. Whether our views and practice as a denomination are correct or not, one thing is certain, we feel no hesitation in referring "to the Law and the testimony," as our only test, and we claim to believe that every thing that does not come up to sanctuary weight, ought to be rejected by every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.—There are undoubtedly many things wanting among us which need to be set in order, and we trust as they are made manifest, a remedy will be applied to existing evils.

As the profits arising from the publication of this paper are by the convention held sacred to the cause of missions, we feel a confidence in soliciting the patronage of all the friends of the convention and of Christian missions, and would suggest that while they are receiving an equivalent for their money in the paper, they at the same time are aiding the important objects of the convention.

The price of the paper will continue the same as the last year to all who pay by the time mentioned in the conditions, say at the end of three months from the time of subscribing, but to such as defer the payment to a later period, the price will be enhanced fifty cents, unless in case of a special agreement to the contrary.

A number of communications for the paper are on hand, but are unavoidably omitted this week, to make room for the Index.

#### For the Christian Secretary.

DESIGN OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ITS MINISTERS.

(Continued from page 199.)

If such are the qualifications that God designs his ministers to possess, we have only to ascertain whether our young brethren have the moral; & if so, to give them as many and as much of the natural as circumstances may decide are proper.

1. That they may be acquiring knowledge, be better prepared for the duties of the sacred office, we do not desire at this time to decide where they shall obtain information, whether at colleges and seminaries of learning, or at other places. This is of little consequence; our object is to give them an education, and if they receive this, it is accomplished.

2. That they may form those habits that will tend to increase their usefulness. Habit (which is every thing, and gives pleasure in duty) is in fact, humanly speaking, that upon which our future characters depend. Let them be formed well in the commencement of life, and our usefulness will be greatly promoted. This is literally true of students and ministers.

3. That they may be prepared to enter the field of action young, and thus augment the sum of usefulness. This life is short and uncertain, and unless we commence while young in its pursuits, we accomplish comparatively little.

The object for which a contribution is to be solicited at this time, is to aid our young brethren, who are unable to assist themselves in acquiring some of the natural qualifications for the Christian ministry. It is presumed most, if not all present, have acquiesced in the preceding remarks. If so, it is further supposed, that you will be disposed to contribute to such an important and useful object. Before you decide how much you will give, consider

1. That you as Christians, are members of some church, and should be interested in those objects that promote its prosperity. The apostle urged upon his brethren in the chapter before us, a co-operation in every benevolent and Christian cause, from their delightful connexion. They were members of the same body; quickened by one Spirit; animated by one hope of eternal life, and enjoyed the same blessings and privileges. What could have influenced them more to strive for the promotion of that common cause in which the salvation of sinners and the edification of saints was involved? The Christian ministry is the principal means that is employed in divine providence to accomplish these purposes. Are you not conscious, Christian brethren, of a similar excitement, when you realize that you sustain the same relation to each other, and to the cause of Christ, that the Ephesian brethren did? Are you not then anxious to aid by your talents, property, prayers, and general influence in giving your brethren who ardently, sincerely, and prayerfully desire to become qualified to be extensively useful in this work, an education? You are not called upon to labour in the ministry, to endure its trials and discouragements. You may pursue your avocations and accumulate the riches of this world, but the preacher must, if he would please his God, & do good to souls, adhere to his profession, and be contented with a simple subsistence.—You are required in the word of God to support those that do, by contributing a portion of the substance which our common Lord has given you. This is a privilege you cannot too highly appreciate. It is not merely contributing to the support of men, but to the cause of Christ, which they endeavour to substantiate. O! what a privilege is this; Happy is that soul that looks from the heights of heaven and reflects, that in its life time, it contributed to

the advancement of a cause, to which it is wholly indebted for its present exalted and holy condition.

2. The design of the society, whose anniversary we celebrate this evening, and in whose behalf, the speaker has the happiness to appear before you, is, as has been already expressed, to render assistance to those young men in acquiring an education—and those only, who possess the moral qualifications that have been enumerated. This society wishes first of all, that they should be ardently pious, for without this, and the influences of the Holy Spirit, learning would make them dangerous foes to the everlasting interest of souls. They wish them to have learning, that they may know how to apply the great truths of salvation in the most skillful manner to the consciences of men. They ask you, is not this a desirable object, worthy of your approbation, and strictly accordant with divine providence in every age? Ministers of this description, by the benediction of heaven, will raise the character of your denomination, elevate the tone of piety in your churches, operate in many places more successfully from their denominational character, and contribute in no small degree to the evangelizing of the world; a subject that forms a part of most of your prayers.

3. Ponder a moment upon the final state of the church, when all the prophecies are fulfilled, and Jerusalem is established, and made the joy of the whole earth. Look at it in your imagination. What Christian would not wish to live in this eventful period of time! Do you not wish to aid in its accomplishment? Say not no, in language or conduct, for this would be an impeachment of your Christian character. Rather answer in the affirmative. You may enjoy this privilege by devoting your influence, property, and prayers to it. This object is worthy of your exertions—it is one that will be benefited by your liberality—long, long, after you are dead; yea, from age to age, till time shall be no longer. Who can tell the influence that Abraham now exerts on the believing world? Who can imagine the good that the apostles yet accomplish by their memoirs and writings? Who can calculate the effects that still flow from the example of martyrs, fathers, and the pious of different ages? These, though dead, yet speak—speak in terms that cannot be misunderstood, and urge to renewed action and increasing diligence in the cause of Christ. Abraham and the apostles would have been more than astonished, if the degree of influence they have in fact and will in future ages exert, could it have been exhibited before them. Who will pretend now to estimate the quantum of good the widow's mite will accomplish in ages unborn? It is our privilege to cast our bread upon the waters, believing that some will find it hereafter, and acquaint us with it amid eternity.—You know not, brethren, but what your contributions this evening will indirectly be felt till the latest hour of millennial glory—yea, to the ages of eternal life.—What encouragement do these suggestions afford for individual co-operation. God can carry his designs into execution without aid, but he permits us to assist, and advances them, by our own means. Is this not an unspeakable privilege, and an inexpressible expression of holy, and heavenly love? Let others devote their substance to mechanical and a thousand other inventions and improvements, be it our object to advance as far as possible the benevolent designs of the gospel. This will add to your comfort on a dying pillow, and may increase your love and heighten your praise in eternity. O! that Christians knew the value of property—they would cast double, treble, into the treasury of the Lord. Need I do any thing more than to present sober and solid truth before you, and the motives that should influence you to act. Having done this, I forbear. Here is a society of young men, associated for the before mentioned purposes. Let not their hearts droop and their spirits sigh for want of your encouragement. Patronize them; and do it at this time. You need not be detained longer. The object is before you. Let each one look up to God, and inquire what he ought to give for its encouragement, and go, ye who have been appointed, and receive their contributions.

Note.—At the present time Christians are prone to two extremes upon the importance of education in the Ministry of the gospel.—Some allow, from their expressions, at least, that learning is of primary consequence, while others undervalue it altogether. It should be always understood, that all the literary accomplishments in the world will not make men ministers.—God prevent such a sentiment as this, being adopted by those who advocate the renovating power of the religion of Christ.—Persons must first give evidence of piety, and of their appointment to the work of the ministry, by their desire for the office and their aptness to teach, before they think seriously of pursuing it. If it is a matter of indifference, whether they preach or not, they ought by all means, though extensively qualified in literature, to relinquish all thought of engaging in the sacred office. Christ has never called such to be ambassadors from the court of heaven to beseech sinners to be reconciled to God. Learning, when viewed in its much extended influence in the Christian ministry, is merely subservient to facilitate the advancement of its object. Considered in any other light, it had better be confined to the walls of our colleges, or to the libraries of ancient monasteries. Men will accomplish more in the moral renovation of the world, by merely

warm and pathetic addresses to the heart, who are destitute of science, than all the schools and scholars combined can effect, deficient in ardent piety.

While we thus speak, we would not be understood on the other hand, that learning has not proved exceedingly beneficial. No. We believe that under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, our colleges and seminaries have done much good; and we anticipate the time when all the treasures of this world and all the erudition of the schools will be converted to advance and to perpetuate the interests of the church. At our public institutions, there are many more facilities in acquiring an education, than can possibly be obtained from the libraries and instructions of individuals. This is the sole reason, why we wish our young brethren to resort thither instead of pursuing their studies with private persons.

Those who would gladly consign to oblivion all knowledge but just what their heads contain, are generally found among those who secretly at least, oppose our Education Societies. They are exceedingly fond of displaying all, and not unfrequently more than they actually know in circles that are more ignorant than themselves, and allow their vanity to be flattered by their testimony to their talents and knowledge, while in other places they offer those two common objections to an enlightened ministry, lest some should exceed them in their office. First, that those that are really called to preach the gospel, as was Aaron, will be qualified for their duties immediately from God, and therefore need not the aid of letters: and, Secondly, that education tends to inflate vanity, and therefore disqualifies for such a holy employment. In answer to the first be it simply remarked, that the correctness of the application of that passage of scripture is much questioned, supposing that the apostle does not refer at all to the ministry, but wholly to the priesthood of Christ, and in reply to the second, education tends to discover our ignorance, and to teach us how little we know, and thereby humbling our vanity, by showing us how ignorant we are, and how much there is to be learned; but the time is past to allow much force to these objections. Common sense and the general desires of men show us their inconsistency. Mankind generally in Christian countries, wish to hear well digested discourses, and churches wish to obtain enlightened and well instructed pastors.

There is one lesson of vast consequence to be learned from this subject generally, that ministers are dependant, and that a realizing sense of this, will add much fervour to their preaching, much faithfulness to their addresses, and create the most ardent desires not to amuse, but to instruct; not to excite emotions of wonder and applause, but to arouse every faculty of body and soul of their hearers to a preparation for an awful and unchanging eternity.

#### General Intelligence.

##### EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

##### SENATE.

##### SECOND SESSION.

Monday, January 10.

Mr. Barbour, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom the several petitions on the subject of piracies were referred, made a report, which was ordered to be printed.

Accompanying the report, was a bill which provides for the building of a number of sloops of war, not exceeding ten, to carry not less than twenty guns each. These are to be employed, under the direction of the President, in suppressing piracy, and are authorized to land, in the fresh pursuit of pirates, on any of the Spanish Islands in the West Indies. The bill also provides, that armed merchant vessels, under proper regulations, may capture piratical vessels, and bring them in as pirates. The bill was read twice, and made the order of the day for Thursday.

A message was received from the President of the United States, (the same as that received in the other House on Friday,) respecting his accounts with, and disbursements for, the government. The message was laid on the table.

Mr. King, of Alabama, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill, making compensation to the persons appointed by the Electors to bring on the votes for President and Vice President; which was twice read.

Mr. Lloyd, of Maryland, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill for the relief of the Columbian College, in the district of Columbia, accompanied by a statement of facts in relation to the subject matter thereof; which were read.

The bill abolishing imprisonment for debt, was read a third time and, on motion, was recommitted.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, January 11.

Mr. Eaton presented the petition of Thos. Taylor, praying compensation for improving certain streets in the City of Washington, the expense of which is properly chargeable to the United States. Referred.

Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill to authorize the President of the United States to cause a road to be marked out, from the west frontier of Missouri, to the confines of N. W. Mexico; which was read and passed to a second reading.

The Senate proceeded to consider a motion submitted by Mr. Brown, yesterday, to instruct the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for constructing the road from Wheeling, in Virginia, to St. Louis, and agreed thereto.

The bill making compensation to the persons appointed by the electors to deliver the votes for President and Vice President, was considered, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Adjourned.

Wednesday, January 12.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill allowing a drawback on the exportation of cordage manufactured in the United States, from foreign hemp. The bill was made the order of the day for Monday.

The Senate then proceeded to consider the bill for the relief of the Columbian College, in the District of Columbia. A letter was read from Mr. Luther Rice, respecting the origin of the College debt to the Government. The bill was ordered to lie on the table.

Adjourned.

Thursday, January 13.

Mr. Chandler submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to cause to be made, and laid before the Senate, as soon as may be, an abstract of



the Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of the Infantry, and the General Regulations of the Army of the United States, in such a manner as shall be best adapted to the use of the militia of the United States.

**Resolved**, That the Secretary of War be directed to report to the Senate, as soon as may be, the number of divisions, brigades, regiments, battalions, and companies, of militia of the United States, according to the last returns from the several States in the Union.

Mr. Van Buren, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill abolishing imprisonment for debt, reported the same.

The President of the United States communicated a message enclosing a report from the Secretary of State, and another from the Secretary of War, relative to the piracies in the West Indies. The President recommends, that the Executive be authorized either to pursue the offenders to the settled as well as the unsettled parts of the island, from whence they issue; to make reprisal on the property of the inhabitants; or to blockade the ports of those islands.

Adjourned to Monday.

#### HOUSE.

Monday, January 10.

On motion of Mr. Gurley, of Louisiana, it was

**Resolved**, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of cutting a canal from Lake Ponchartrain to communicate with the Mississippi at or near the city of New Orleans.

On motion of Mr. Richard, of Michigan, it was

**Resolved**, That the Select Committee, to whom was referred the petition of the Trustees of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Kentucky, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the aid of the National Legislature to the Asylum for the tuition of the Deaf and Dumb, established in the cities of New-York, Philadelphia, and Detroit, and report by bill or otherwise.

The engrossed bill for the relief of the sufferers on the Niagara frontier was taken up, and on motion, was postponed to Monday next.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole—on the bill further to provide for the punishment of crimes against the United States. After several slight amendments the Committee rose and reported the bill as amended.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, January 11.

Mr. Crownshield, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill, "providing additional means for the suppression of piracy," which was twice read and committed to a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Van Rensselaer, from the Committee to which the subject was referred, reported a joint resolution, to provide for the care and preservation of the Capitol, and the public ground in the City of Washington.

Mr. Ingham moved to refer the Message of the President of the United States, received on Thursday last, to a Select Committee. This motion, after a protracted discussion, was agreed to, with the addition of instructions to the Committee to receive from the President any evidences or explanations of his claims which he may think proper to present, and to file the same in the office of the Clerk of the House, to be acted upon at the next session of Congress.

[Messrs. Ingham, Saunders, Poinsett, F. Johnson, Hayden, Tomlinson, and Sloane, have been appointed a Select Committee on this subject.]

Adjourned.

Wednesday, January 12.

Mr. Taylor, of New-York, offered the following resolution, which was agreed to.

**Resolved**, That the Committee on the Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law, that sales for non-payment of taxes laid by authority of the territorial governments, shall not take place in a shorter period than one year after the same shall become payable; that one year shall be allowed for redemption, upon payment of a penalty not exceeding 50 per cent. on the amount of tax. That the Commissioner of the General Land Office, or other proper officer of the government residing at the city of Washington, be authorized to receive the tax and penalty from non-resident owners, which he shall deposit in Bank to the credit of the proper territorial office, and make to him quarterly returns of the sums thus deposited, and that a limitation be fixed upon the amount of tax to be annually assessed upon each quarter section of land in the territories.

On motion of Mr. Call, of Indiana, it was

**Resolved**, That the Select Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, in relation to a canal communication between the waters of Lake Michigan and the river Illinois, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of aiding the State of Indiana, in opening a canal communication between the waters of Lake Erie and the Wabash river, and that the said Committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The House then proceeded to the unfinished business of yesterday, which was the bill farther to provide for the punishment of crimes against the United States.

Several amendments were proposed, and the bill was postponed till Monday.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill to continue the Cumberland Road. The Committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

Adjourned.

Thursday, January 13.

Mr. Kent, from the Committee on the District of Columbia reported a bill "amendatory of an act, entitled an act to incorporate the provident association of clerks, in the civil department of the Government of the United States, in the District of Columbia;" which was twice read and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

On motion of Mr. Forsyth, a letter received yesterday from the Department of War, accompanied by the letters of Mr. Joseph M'Min, late Agent for Indian Affairs in the Cherokee nation, was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Wright of Ohio, presented the following:

**Resolved**, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and report such rules as in their opinion may be proper to be observed by this House in a choice of President and Vice President of the United States, for the period of four years from the 4th of March next, if, on counting the votes given in the several States in the manner prescribed in the Constitution of the United States, it shall appear that no person has received a majority of all

the Electors of President and Vice President appointed in the several States.

On motion of Mr. Mallory, of Vermont, the resolution was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The House took up, in Committee of the Whole, the bill respecting the Cumberland Road. After a long debate, the Committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

Adjourned.

Friday, January 14.

Mr. Renolds, of Tennessee, offered a resolution, to inquire into the expediency of appropriating money for the improvement of the navigation of the Cumberland River.

The bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe, on behalf of the U. States, for 1500 shares in the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal Stock, was taken up, in Committee of the Whole, and was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

Adjourned.

#### SACRIFICES OF LA FAYETTE.

In the debate in the Senate on the bill for making an appropriation to General La Fayette, Mr. Hayne, of South Carolina, made the following statement, which proves more clearly than any thing we had seen before, the General's devotion to the cause of America. The same statement, in substance, was presented to the House of Representatives by Mr. Livingston of Louisiana.

Mr. H. said he held in his hands documents which he had not intended to submit to the Senate, because he had already submitted them very generally to the private inspection of the members; but, called upon as he now was, he felt it his duty to present them publicly to the Senate. Mr. H. then submitted a statement, founded on a document which had been received from France by a member of the Senate, from which it appeared, that when General La Fayette embarked for America in 1777, he possessed an income of 146,000, francs \$28,700—an income which, it is well known, has been reduced by his losses and sacrifices in the cause of liberty throughout the world to a very small sum.

It also appeared from the same document, that, during six years from 1777 to 1783, the General had expended in the American service, 700,000 francs, equal to 140,000 dollars. Mr. H. adverted to further sacrifices which the General had made in the cause of liberty, as established by this document; but the only fact in it to which he wished particularly to draw the attention of the Senate, was, that he sacrificed, more than forty years ago, one hundred and forty thousand dollars of his private fortune in the service of this country; and how was the sacrifice made? Under what circumstances? Was he one of our own citizens—one of those whose lives and fortunes were necessarily exposed during the vicissitudes of a contest for the right of self-government? No, Sir, said Mr. H. no such thing. If he had been a native American, and had lost his whole estate by the war, he would have incurred a misfortune to which all his fellow citizens were liable in common with him.

But he was in the enjoyment of rank and fortune in his own country. He raised, equipped and armed a regiment, at his own proper charge, and came here with a vessel freighted with arms, munitions, and equipments for war, which he distributed gratuitously among your people. And it is a matter of record on the pages of your history, that he put shoes on the feet of your bare-foot soldiery.—For these services he asked no recompense—he received none. He spent his fortune for you—he shed his blood for you—and without acquiring any thing but a claim upon your gratitude, he impoverished himself. And what, in recompense, has this government done for him? It was not until the year 1794, that they gave to him the full pay, without interest, which he was entitled to have received twelve or fourteen years before. Did they then attempt to remunerate him for the services, other than military, which the gallant General had rendered to the country? No, Sir, But if an American citizen had put his hand into his pocket, raised a regiment for the service of his country, clothed their nakedness, and put shoes upon their bleeding feet—would he not have been entitled to compensation for such expenditure? Sir, if we were to resort to a calculation of pounds, shillings and pence, if we were to draw up an account current with General La Fayette, the balance in his favour would far exceed the amount which by this bill it is proposed to appropriate.

Mr. H. stated that there was an incident in the life of Gen. La Fayette, which was explained by the documents which he held in his hand, and which presented his conduct in such a delightful point of view, that he could not refrain from bringing it to the view of the Senate, though he should not found upon it any claim for remuneration for the sacrifices which the General had incurred on the occasion alluded to. It would be recollected, that, in March 1803, Congress made a grant of 11,520 acres of land to Gen. La Fayette. In the year following, he was ordered to locate his warrant on any vacant land in the territory of Orleans; and, on the 7th April, 1806, his agent, in this country did locate a tract of 1000 acres of vacant land adjoining the city of New-Orleans. On the 3d March, 1807, Congress, without advertent to this location in behalf of the

General, and indeed wholly unconscious of the fact that it had been made, granted to the Corporation of the City of New-Orleans a space of six hundred yards around the fortifications of the city, including a valuable portion of the very land which had been previously entered by the General. He was immediately informed of the fact; it was stated to him that his right to this land was unquestionable, and Mr. H. held in his hand a statement made by an eminent lawyer and jurist, now a member of the other House, showing that a legal opinion was forwarded, assuring the General that, in a contest with the city of New-Orleans, he must succeed. Another document, which Mr. Hayne had obtained from another source, stated that the value of the land had even then been discovered, and that \$50,000 could have been obtained for the General's title to it. And what was the conduct of La Fayette, on being informed of these facts? He promptly, and without hesitation, communicated to his agent, "that he would not consent even to inquire into the validity of his title; that he could not think of entering into litigation with any public body in the U. S.; that the property had been gratuitously bestowed upon him by the United States, and it was with them to say what had been given;" and he accompanied these declarations by a positive direction to his agent to relinquish his entry and to make a location elsewhere. This has been done, and a certificate from the Land Office proves, that the land substituted for that which had been lost, is of very inconsiderable value. General La Fayette however, did not stop here—he had been induced to dispose of a part of his interest in this land, to an Irish Baronet, Sir Josiah Coghlin. His contract with this gentleman created, of course, much embarrassment to him; but the General only considered that it might also embarrass the government of the United States. He made no appeal to that gentleman, who with a liberality worthy of all praise, agreed to relinquish his claims to the land in question, and accepted a claim on other lands in satisfaction for them. La Fayette stopped not even here; he was not satisfied while any thing remained to be done. I have myself, said Mr. H. seen and examined on file, in the Land Office, this deed of relinquishment, deposited there by General La Fayette himself, to secure the government from all future difficulty. It only remains for me, said Mr. H. to add, that, on a portion of the land, thus generously relinquished, now stands a valuable part of the city of New-Orleans, valued by a gentleman well acquainted with it, (according to estimates now before him,) at from four to five hundred thousand dollars.

It is perfectly immaterial, said Mr. H. to inquire whether some legal difficulty might not have existed in establishing the General's title. Nothing but a judicial investigation could have settled the rights of the parties; and as the General has relinquished his claim, and has never, at any time, claimed indemnity, that investigation would now be useless. But the point on which he delighted to dwell was the magnanimity, the refinement of feeling, the noble delicacy of sentiment, which prompted the General at once to abandon his claims, to refuse even to inquire into them, and wholly regardless of his own interests, to look only to the interests of our country.

#### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The following extract from the recent Report of the Secretary of War, designates the great internal improvements which it is in contemplation to make, under the law of the last session of Congress. After noticing the principles which governed the department in determining what plans were of "national importance," the Secretary proceeds:—

The first and most important, was conceived to be the route for a canal extending from the seat of government, by the Potomac, to the Ohio River, and thence to Lake Erie; and, accordingly, as soon as the Board was organized, it was ordered to examine and cause the important route to be surveyed. The examination of the route was completed in September; but the survey will not be finished till the next season. The part of it, however, which is most interesting, the section of the summit level of the Alleghany, including its eastern slope, is completed, which, it is hoped, will enable the Board to determine, during the present winter, on the practicability of the project. Should it prove practicable, its execution would be of incalculable advantage to the country. It would bind together, by the strongest bond of common interest and security, a very large portion of this Union; but, in order fully to realize its "importance in a national point of view," it will be necessary to advert to some of the more striking geographical features of our country.

The United States may be considered, in a geographical point of view, as consisting of three distinct parts; of which the portion extending along the shores of the Atlantic, and back to the Alleghany mountains, constitutes one; that lying on the Lakes and the St. Lawrence another; and that watered by the Mississippi, including its various branches, the other. These

several portions are very distinctly marked by well defined lines, and have naturally but little connexion, particularly in a commercial point of view. It is only by artificial means of communication that this nature can be overcome; to effect which, much had already been done. The great canal of New-York firmly unites the country of the Lakes with the Atlantic, through the channel of the North River; and the National Road from Cumberland to Wheeling, commenced under the administration of Mr. Jefferson, unites, but more imperfectly, the Western with the Atlantic states. But the complete union of these separate parts, which, geographically, constitute our country, can only be effected by the completion of the projected canal to the Ohio and Lake Erie, by means of which, the country lying on the Lakes will be firmly united to that on the Western waters, and both with the Atlantic states, and the whole intimately connected with the centre. These considerations, of themselves, without taking into view others, fairly bring the great work within the provision of the act directing the surveys; but when we extend our views, and consider the Ohio and the Mississippi, with its great branches, but as a prolongation of the canal, it must be admitted to be not only of national importance, but of the very highest national importance, in a commercial, military, and political point of view.—Thus considered, it involves the completion of the improvements of the navigation of both of these rivers, which has been commenced under the appropriation of the last session of Congress; and also, canals round the falls of the Ohio at Louisville, and Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee River; both of which, it is believed, can be executed at a moderate expense. With these improvements, the projected canal would not only unite the three great sections of the country together, as has been pointed out, but would also unite, in the most intimate manner, all of the states on the Lakes and the Western waters among themselves, and give complete effect to whatever improvement may be made by those states individually. The advantages, in fact, from the completion of this single work, as proposed, would be so extended & ramified throughout these great divisions of our country, already containing so large a portion of our population, and destined in a few generations, to outnumber the most populous states of Europe, as to leave in that quarter no other work for the execution of the general government, excepting only the extension of Cumberland road from Wheeling to St. Louis, which is also conceived to be of "national importance."

The route which is deemed next in importance in a national point of view, is the one extending through the entire tier of the Atlantic states, including those on the Gulf of Mexico. By adverting to the division of our country, through which this route must pass, it will be seen that there is a striking difference in geographical features between the portions which extend south and north of the city of Washington, including the Chesapeake bay, with its various arms in the latter division. In the northern part of the division, all of the great rivers terminate in deep and bold navigable estuaries, while an opposite character distinguishes the mouths of the rivers in the other. This difference gives greater advantages to improvement, by canal, in the northern, and less in the southern, division. In the former, it is conceived to be of high national importance to unite its deep and capacious bays by a series of canals; and the Board was accordingly instructed to examine the routes for canals between the Delaware and Raritan, between Barnstable and Buzzard's bay, and Boston harbour and Narragansett bay. The execution of the very important link in this line of communication between the Delaware and the Chesapeake, having been already commenced, was not comprehended in the order. These orders will be executed by the Board before the termination of the season. The important results which would follow from the completion of this chain, in a commercial, military, and political point of view, are so striking, that they need not be dwelt on. It would, at all times, in peace and war, afford a prompt, cheap, and safe communication between all of the states north of the seat of government, and greatly facilitate their communication with the centre of the Union. The states of New-Hampshire and Maine, though lying beyond the point where these improvements would terminate, would not, on that account, less participate in the advantages, as they are no less interested than Massachusetts herself, in avoiding the long and dangerous passage round Cape Cod, which would be effected by the union of Barnstable with Buzzard's bay.

In the section lying south of this, none of these advantages for communication by canals exist.—A line of inland navigation extends, it is true, along nearly the whole line of coast which is susceptible of improvement, and may be rendered highly serviceable, particularly in war, and on that account may be fairly considered of "national importance." The Dismal Swamp canal, from the Chesapeake bay to Albemarle Sound, which is nearly com-

pleted, constitutes a very important link in this navigation. But it is conceived that, for the southern division of our country, the improvement which would best effect the views of Congress, would be a durable road, extending from the seat of government to New-Orleans, through the Atlantic states; and the Board will accordingly receive instructions to examine the route as soon as the next season will permit.

The completion of this work, and the line of canals to the North, would unite the several Atlantic states, including those on the Gulf, in a strong bond of union, and connect the whole with the centre, which would also be united, as has been shown, with those on the Lakes and the Western waters, by the improvement projected in that quarter.

#### LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

By the ship Young Phoenix, Capt. Dunbar, in 42 days from London, we have received London papers to the 2d of December inclusive, through the politeness of the captain.

The London papers contain many particulars of the devastation and ruin caused by the late heavy winds and rain in England. It is stated that £20,000 would not repair the dam age sustained at Sidmouth. The lower part of the town was inundated—those who inhabited houses bordering on the sea, were placed in the most imminent danger. Nearly every boat was broken in pieces, houses were blown down by the wind, others by the fury of the sea, and the whole town was deluged—the night was awful. In the morning, men and women were seen endeavouring to save their goods, their windows; others were endeavouring to preserve their lives by letting themselves down by means of sheets from their bedrooms into boats; others escaped by swimming. A great number of cattle and sheep had perished.—N. Y. D. A.

#### NEWS FROM PERSIA.

Letters from Shiras announce, that in that month of April 1824, there had been an earthquake which lasted six days and six nights without intermission, and which had swallowed up more than half of that unfortunate city, and overthrown the other, as was the case at Aleppo. Nearly all the inhabitants fell victims to the catastrophe; scarcely five hundred persons could save themselves. Other letters from Aborkah announce that the same shock, but less violent, had been felt there.

Razoon, a city between Arbokoh and Shiras was swallowed up with almost the whole of the inhabitants, in consequence of the same earthquake. All the mountains surrounding Razoon were leveled by it, and no trace of them now remains.—B.

#### BRAZIL.

The Capt. of the brig Jane, Capt. Candler, has favoured us with Pernambuco, papers to Nov. 28th and a note, from which the following is extracted:—

The cause of the rebellion of the troops in Bahia, (of which we had an account,) was the imprisonment of sergeant major, for refusing to swear to the system proposed by the Emperor. The battalion immediately took arms and went to the Governor at arms, and demanded his release, which being refused, he was assassinated for the 25th of October.—This battalion being driven out of the city, went to the fortress of St. Pedro, and were pursued by another part of the artillery. It is supposed that the liberal party will gain possession of the capital, and the President of the imperial party has retired for the interior.

Filgularas, governor of Seara, attacked the town of Acahuana, Nov. 8, intending to establish a government called that of the Supreme Saviour, but lost 200 men.

The Rio Janerio Diario, hints that proposition of recognition have been made by this French government. The Emperor's government are occupied in founding our university.

The remains of the ex-president Carvalho's are said to have left the city of Olinda on the 17th of October, whence they took the road to Guiana, pursued by the Emperor's troops.—They then moved towards Limoco.—B.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, dated Wilmington, Jan. 7.

The brig North Carolina arrived on the 6th; information had just been received here that the Steamboat North Carolina, from Fayetteville, ran foul of a snag about ten miles from Wilmington. She was loaded with cotton, flour, tobacco, and flaxseed—she was run on shore; her bow is out of water, but the remainder of her has sunk.—B.

#### MARRIED.

At Middletown, Mr. Cornelius Cannon to Miss Sarah Sage.  
At Torrington, on the 20th inst. Mr. Sylvester Coe, to Miss Caroline S. Brown, of Canton.

#### DIED.

At East Hartford on the 15th instant, Mr. Richard Hills, aged 68.

#### WANTED.

Two apprentices at the Shoemaking business, By SELDEN MINER.  
Wethersfield, Jan 25. 52

GREEN'S  
Connecticut Register  
for 1825, for sale by  
H. HUNTINGTON, Jr.

ÆTNA  
INSURANCE COMPANY,  
WILL receive proposals for Insurance against loss or damage by fire, every day in the week (except Sunday) at their office in Morgan's Exchange Coffee-House, State Street, in Hartford, Connecticut.  
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CHECKS  
On the U. S. B. B.  
For sale at this office.



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